

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00

OMB-01 XMB-02 OPIC-03 /113 W
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R 252058Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9473

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

USDEL MTN GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD BB

SUBJ: MTN-PROFILE OF BARBADOS

REF: STATE 181868

1. ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL BASIS FOR COUNTRY'S MTN APPROACH:
BARBADOS' ECONOMY LACKS DEPTH, BEING DEPENDENT LARGELY ON
EARNINGS FROM SUGAR AND TOURISM. IN RECENT YEARS, HOWEVER,
GOB HAS TRIED, WITH SOME SUCCESS, TO ATTRACT LABOR-INTENSIVE
INDUSTRY AND PROMOTE CULTIVATION OF FOOD CROPS. TRADE WITH
US IS SMALL BUT GROWING. SUGAR EXPORTS, IN PARTICULAR, HAVE
SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED SINCE 1974, WHEN BARBADOS RESUMED
LARGE-SCALE SHIPMENTS TO US BECAUSE OF HIGHER PRICES AND TO
ESTABLISH A GOOD RECORD IN EVENT US QUOTA SYSTEM REINSTATED.
US SUGAR POLICY WILL CONTINUE TO BE A MATTER OF CONSIDERABLE

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CONCERN TO GOB, AS WILL TARIFFS ON TEXTILES, APPAREL,

ASSEMBLED GOODS, AND RUM. IN VIEW OF LIMITED MAGNITUDE OF EXPORTS TO US, GOB IS NOT CONCERNED OVER POSSIBLE IMPOSITION BY US OF NON-TARIFF BARRIERS BUT CAN BE EXPECTED TO OPPOSE ANY COTTON TEXTILE QUOTA LIMITATIONS. WHILE GOB IS VAGUELY "SOCIALIST" IN PHILOSOPHICAL APPROACH TO ECONOMIC MATTERS, ITS ACTIONS ARE USUALLY BASED ON PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND, WHILE IT CONSIDERS BARBADOS PART OF THIRD WORLD AND ESPOUSES THIRD WORLD POSITIONS ON SOME POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES, IT REJECTS THE RHETORIC OF THIRD WORLD EXTREMISTS AND HAS PLAYED A GENERALLY RESPONSIBLE ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL FORA.

2. COUNTRY POLICIES AND MECHANISMS TO ACHIEVE TRADE OBJECTIVES:

GOB REGARDS PRIVATE SECTOR AS KEY TO EFFICIENT RESOURCE ALLOCATION EXCEPT IN PUBLIC SERVICE AREAS AND, ON THE WHOLE, EXERCISES LESS CONTROL OVER ECONOMY THAN MOST OF ITS INDEPENDENT CARIBBEAN NEIGHBORS. LEGAL PROVISIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICES GOVERNING ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING TRADE, ARE LARGELY OF BRITISH PROVENANCE AND ENCOURAGE PRIVATE SECTOR ACTIVITY. HOWEVER, RECENT INFLATION/ ENERGY CRISIS HAS LED TO COUNTER MEASURES BY GOB RESULTING IN IMPOSITION OF NEW IMPORT AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESTRICTIONS, AND SO LONG AS CRISIS CONTINUES THESE LIKELY TO REMAIN IN EFFECT. AS GOB IS NOT EXPECTED TO HAVE REPRESENTATIVE OF ITS OWN AT MTN, IT WILL NO DOUBT WORK CLOSELY WITH CARICOM SECRETARIAT IN GEORGETOWN AND WITH ANY NEIGHBORING STATES THAT ARE REPRESENTED AT MTN TO FURTHER ITS OBJECTIVES.

3. COUNTRY TRADE POLICY DECISION-MAKING PROCESS: AS DOMINANT

FIGURE IN GOB, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND PLANNING AND TRAINED ECONOMIST WITH SPECIAL INTEREST IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, PRIME MINISTER BARROW DOUBTLESS SETS TRADE POLICY LINE AND MAKES MAJOR DECISIONS IN THIS FIELD. MINISTER OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE BRANFORD TAITT, WHO IS CLOSE AND TRUSTED ASSOCIATE OF BARROW'S, ACTS AS PRINCIPAL ADVISOR TO PRIME MINISTER AND IMPLEMENTS POLICY ON DAY-TO-DAY BASIS; IN CARRYING OUT HIS DUTIES HE IS ABLY ASSISTED BY PERMANENT SECRETARY STANLEY TAYLOR. OTHERS WHO PLAY A ROLE IN FORMULATION AND CONDUCT OF TRADE POLICY ARE THE FOLLOWING: MINISTER OF TOURISM, INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS PETER MORGAN; MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ANDERSON MORRISON; GOVERNOR OF CENTRAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BANK COURTNEY BLACKMAN; INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ACTING DIRECTOR RAWLE CHASE; AND DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND PLANNING IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING STEPHEN EMTAGE.

4. MTN PERSONNEL: AS NOTED ABOVE, IT IS NOT EXPECTED THAT GOB WILL BE REPRESENTED IN ITS OWN RIGHT AT MTN.
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